

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please insert the following replacement paragraph:

[0036] The quick change assembly 100 is also comprised of a slip fit type gas ring adapter 130. This gas ring adapter 130 may have any of a number of shapes but must be configured to fit over the barrel nut 110. The gas ring adapter has a pair of tabs 132 extending from the [support]gas ring adapter 130. These tabs 132 are configured to be placed on either side of an upper handle of an upper receiver assembly 12 of one of the aforementioned rifles. A groove 134 extends from the first end 136 of the support ring to the second end 138 of the gas ring adapter 130 and is adapted to receive a portion of a gas tube 22 therein.

Please insert the following replacement paragraph:

[0037] Various adaptations of the [support ring]gas ring adapter 130 may exist depending upon the application. In some embodiments, grasp connecting portions 139 of the support ring 130 are configured to interconnect with a grasping means such as hand grasps, hand guards or forearms. The exact dimensions of these grasping portions are dependent upon the type of grasping device [which]that is utilized. Thus, the means for connecting the [slip ring]gas ring adapter 130 to a hand guard may include, but are not limited to, tabs, grooves, threaded portions and other forms of attachment. These types of rings allow for handles and forearms to be utilized together with the barrel of the gun in floating arrangement for improved accuracy. A variety of different shapes and configurations are shown in Figures 3, 4 and 6.

Please insert the following replacement paragraph:

[0038] The third part of the nut assembly is a locknut 140 that locks the [support ring]gas ring adapter 130 in place along the outer surface 118 of the barrel nut 110. The locknut 140 is generally cylindrical having an inner portion 142 defining a series of grooves that are adapted to combine with the threads on the outer surface 120 of the barrel nut 110. The locknut 140 can be tightened to compressively engage the [support ring]gas ring adapter 130 against the barrel nut 110. The locknut 140, like the barrel nut 110, may have a series of holes 144 therein which are adapted to fit with a spanner wrench, or other tool that can be used to adjustably tighten and release the locknut 140 from the barrel nut assembly. An example of this type of spanner wrench is shown in Fig. 7. This spanner wrench 200 is designed to be small for easy portability while also having a portion adapted to connect with an elongated device such as a bayonet or other device, which is commonly carried by a soldier.

Please insert the following replacement paragraph:

[0040] A new barrel can be replaced by simply inserting the barrel 10 into the upper receiver 12, tightening the barrel nut 110, placing the gas ring adapter 130 in a desired position, aligning the gas tube 22 within the designated slot 134 of the gas ring adapter 130 and compressing the locknut 140 against the [support ring]gas ring adapter 130. This enables a variety of barrels 10 to be removed [in conceivably]inconceivably less than one minute without the use of tools, which is a tremendous advantage when compared to the barrel nut system used in the prior art.